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Email

April 13, 1998

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Water Quality Technical Group
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Dear Judy:

Following up on the February 25, 1998 Parameter Assessment Team meeting where there was considerable discussion about the water quality expertise and representation of the PAT members, when I received a call from a CALFED staff member regarding how I should be listed in a PAT document, I indicated that I do not represent any group. My primary interest is to try to get the best possible science and engineering into the CALFED process where the public's interests is protected without significant unnecessary expenditures for chemical constituent or pathogenic indicator organism control. In the 38 years that I have been active professionally, I have had considerable experience in agricultural water quality, drinking water quality, industrial water quality and what is labeled as "environmental water quality" but which is basically fish and wildlife aquatic habitat water quality issues.

While not listed in the PAT writeup, nor was I asked, I have been active in recreational water quality for many years and seem to be the one person who has been active in the Water Quality Technical Group who tries to ensure that recreational water quality from a contact recreation perspective is incorporated into CALFED activities. As you may recall, I have pointed out in a number of my comments that there is need for CALFED to consider water quality impacts on Delta recreational use.

My work on recreational water quality dates back to the 1960s where I was involved as an advisor to numerous groups, principally municipalities on recreational water quality issues while I held a professorial position at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

In the early 1970s, I was selected by the National Academies of Science and Engineering "Blue Book" Water Quality Committee to conduct a peer review of the complete "Blue Book" which included recreational water quality issues. I have had a number of consulting contracts, for example with the City of Lubbock, Texas Parks and Recreation on recreational water quality on the Lubbock Chain of Lakes. I was also an advisor to the state of New Jersey Medical Society on the recreational water quality of their Jersey shore. I am familiar with not only sanitary water quality issues, but also the physical and chemical characteristics of water which impact its recreational use. To the extent that there is interest in listing somebody who is concerned about recreational water quality, I will be trying to include this area within the CALFED Water Quality Technical Group and the Parameter Assessment Team activities.

The other area where I have considerable expertise and experience is with human health aspects of water quality. My first two academic degrees, a bachelor's and master's degree, were in areas of public health where I received a bachelor's degree from San Jose State University which is called sanitary sciences, which focused on public health issues. I have a Master's Degree in Public Health from the University of North Carolina. Further, throughout my career I have been active in various public health issues, including being selected by the US Public Health Service to head up a panel to determine the need for PCB drinking water standards. Further, I was an advisor to the National Academies of Science and Engineering "Blue Book" of Water Quality Criteria Committee in the early 1970s which had appreciable public health aspects in it. More recently, I was selected as a member of the Human Health Advisory Panel for the Cal EPA Comparative Risk Project where I represented the water quality aspects of the Project's review of the hazardous chemicals in the environment with respect to impacts on human health. My Superfund site work where I represent the public's interests in ensuring that Superfund sites are adequately investigated and remediated, typically focuses on public health issues. I follow closely the developments in the public health field as they may impact the beneficial uses of water and can help CALFED with most of the human health aspects that need to be considered with respect to Delta water quality issues, including contact recreation, excessive bioaccumulation of hazardous chemicals in fish tissue, impacts on domestic water supply from both a chemical and pathogen issue, etc.

With respect to the page labeled "CALFED Water Quality Program Parameters of Concern for Beneficial Uses", as was discussed, that table needs to be rewritten as discussed at the meeting. Now it is an ill-defined mixture of issues and sources and impacts. There were several of us who suggested that the focus should be on the traditional beneficial use designations where the parameters of concern would be listed as of potential concern with respect to the appropriate regional board use designations. This is a more logical, appropriate approach than what is there now.

If you have questions about these comments, please contact me.

Sincerely yours,

G. Fred Lee, PhD, DEE

Copy to: R. Woodard

GFL:oh